Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

maintaining a list of people known to a user;

receiving a message directed from a sender to the user;

enabling the user to interact with the message from the sender;

inferring that a person determining whether the sender is associated with the user based, at least in part, on interactions between the user and [[a]]the received message directed to the user;

adding the inferred person sender to the list when the person is determined to be known to the user based, at least in part, on interactions between the user and the received message; and

using the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based on whether the others are included on the list.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the received message is an e-mail message received from the person sender.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the interactions include replying to, forwarding, saving, or printing the e-mail message received from the person sender.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the interactions include moving the e-mail from a first folder to a second folder.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the interactions include maintaining the e-mail received from the ~~person~~ sender in an open state for a predetermined period of time.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~inferring~~ determining that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the user sending a message to the person.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the received message is an instant message.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~inferring~~ determining that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on indicia other than actions performed by the user, wherein ~~inferring~~ determining based on indicia other than actions performed by the user comprises:

accessing a contact list of the user to determine a first contact on the user's contact list; and

accessing a contact list of the first contact to determine a second contact on the first contact's contact list.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~inferring~~ determining that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to infer a person is associated with the user.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to report a communication from the person as spam.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to add a person to a blacklist.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to move a communication from the person to at least one of a spam folder or a delete folder.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein people associated with the user are people not distrusted by the user.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein using the list comprises using the list as a white list such that communications received from people on the list are exempt from spam filtering.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein using the list comprises using the list to restrict received communications to those communications from people on the list.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the communications are e-mails.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the communications are instant messages.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein people associated with the user are people known to the user.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein using the list comprises using the list to filter a display of e-mail such that e-mails from people on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from people not on the list are absent from the display.

21. (Original)The method of claim 19 wherein using the list comprises using the list to filter a display of e-mail such that e-mails from people not on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from people on the list are absent from the display.

22. (Original)) The method of claim 1 wherein using the list comprises using the list to restrict which instant messaging interfaces display an online presence of the user to those instant messaging interfaces associated with people on the list.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein using the list comprises using the list as a white list operating in conjunction with parental controls to filter communications from people not on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein filtering communications comprises blocking the communications from people not on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein filtering communications comprises placing communications from people not on the list in a spam folder when the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the spam folder is locked from the teen or child account user.

27. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the communications are e-mails.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer usable medium having a computer program embodied thereon, wherein the computer program comprises instructions for causing a computer to

perform the following operations:

maintain a list of people known to a user;

receive a message directed from a sender to the user;

enable the user to interact with the message from the sender;

infer that a person determine whether the sender is known to is associated with the user based, at least in part, on interactions between the user and [[a]]the received message directed to the user;

add the inferred person sender to the list when the person is determined to be known to the user based, at least in part, on interactions between the user and the received message; and

use the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based on whether the others are included on the list.

29. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 28 wherein the received message is an e-mail message received from the person sender.

30. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 29 wherein the interactions include one or more of replying to, forwarding, saving, or printing the e-mail message received from the person sender.

31. (Original) The medium of claim 29 wherein the interactions include moving the e-mail from a first folder to a second folder.

32. (Original) The medium of claim 31 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

33. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 29 wherein the interactions include maintaining the e-mail received from the person sender in an open state for a predetermined period of time.

34. (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the user sending a message to the person.

35. (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein the received message is an instant message.

36. (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on indicia other than actions performed by the user, wherein, to infer based on indicia other than actions performed by the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to:

access a contact list of the user to determine a first contact on the user's contact list; and

access a contact list of the first contact to determine a second contact on the first contact's contact list.

37. (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to infer a person is associated with the user.

38. (Original) The medium of claim 37 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to report a communication from the person as spam.

39. (Original) The medium of claim 37 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to add a person to a blacklist.

40. (Original) The medium of claim 37 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to move a communication from the person to at least one of a spam folder or a delete folder.

41.   (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein people associated with the user are people not distrusted by the user.

42.   (Original) The medium of claim 41 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list as a white list such that communications received from people on the list are exempt from spam filtering.

43.   (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to restrict received communications to those communications from people on the list.

44.   (Original) The medium of claim 43 wherein the communications are e-mails.

45.   (Original) The medium of claim 43 wherein the communications are instant messages.

46.   (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein people associated with the user are people known to the user.

47.   (Original)The medium of claim 46 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to filter a display of e-mail such that e-mails from people on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from people not on the list are absent from the display.

48.   (Original)The medium of claim 46 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to filter a display of e-mail such that e-mails from people not on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from people on the list are absent from the display.

49.   (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to restrict which instant messaging interfaces display an online presence of the user to those instant messaging interfaces associated with people on the list.

50.   (Original) The medium of claim 28 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list as a white list operating in conjunction with parental controls to filter communications from people not on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

51.   (Original) The medium of claim 50 wherein, to filter communications, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to block the communications from people not on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

52.   (Original) The medium of claim 50 wherein, to filter communications, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to place communications from people not on the list in a spam folder the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

53.   (Original) The medium of claim 52 wherein the spam folder is locked from the teen or child account user.

54.   (Original) The medium of claim 50 wherein the communications are e-mails.

55.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
        means for maintaining a list of people known to a user;

means for receiving a message directed from a sender to the user;

means for enabling the user to interact with the message from the sender;

means for ~~inferring~~ determining whether the ~~person~~ sender is associated with the user based, at least in part, on interactions between the user and the received message directed to the user;

means for adding the ~~inferred person~~ sender to the list when the person is determined to be known to the user based, at least in part, on the interactions between the user and the received message; and

means for using the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based on whether the others are included on the list.